

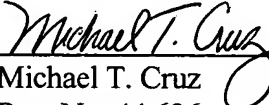
REMARKS

Claims 1-48 of a parent application (i.e., U.S. Application Serial No. 09/129,448) as originally filed have been cancelled, without prejudice, and new claims 49-87 have been added. Claims 49-57 of the present application correspond, with minor changes, to claims 76-84 of the parent application that were withdrawn from the parent application as being directed to a non-elected invention.

An early Office Action on the merits and allowance of claims 49-87 is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: December 15, 2003



Michael T. Cruz
Reg. No. 44,636

McAndrews, Held & Malloy, Ltd.
500 West Madison Street, 34th Floor
Chicago, Illinois 60661
Telephone: (312) 775-8084
Facsimile: (312) 775-8100